

U.S. Application No.:  
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attorney Docket: 3883.026

**REMARKS**

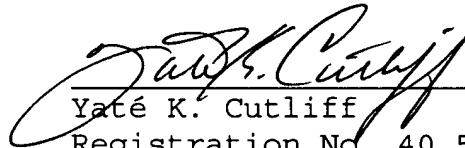
The claims have been amended to conform the claims to U.S. requirements, i.e., in order to eliminate multiple dependent claims, improper claim dependencies, claims improperly depending from multiple dependent claims, and to otherwise conform the claims to U.S. practice. Care has been taken to ensure that no new matter has been added to the claims.

Amendments to the specification have been made to reflect that this application is a **national stage** of PCT/JP2002/011673 under the International Convention.

Care has been taken to ensure that no new matter has been added to the specification or the claims.

Entry and favorable consideration prior to consideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 28, 2005

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**EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE**

"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER: **EV632220260US**

DATE OF DEPOSIT: **April 28, 2005**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Preliminary Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated, with sufficient postage, and is addressed: **Mail Stop: PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 16-0877.

  
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Bonnie L. Horst